



## **AmeriCorps**

### **Virginia Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism**

#### **Communications and Special Events Sub-Committee**

#### **Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2021**

Board Members present: Seema Sethi, Clifford Yee, Jenné Nurse, Jamie Seagraves

Board Members absent: Mark Fero, Lisette Carbajal Liz Childress-Burneson

Staff present: Gail Doyle, Leanne Costantinidis, and Kimberly Brown

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am

Governor's Advisory Board Meeting Agenda items

Report out by Gail and Leanne

- 2021 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards Nominations
  - Nomination Numbers - 74 individual Nominations, 61 Group Nominations - Total - 135
  - Individual Category Stats – Most Nominations - Senior, Least Nominations - Family
  - Group Category Stats - Most Nominations - Community Organization, Least Nominations - Corporation
  - Packaging of Nominations/Score Sheets will be sent to committees Wednesday, June 2. Scoring of nominations will need to be completed through by the Google Form Score
- National Service Awards
  - 2020 - We took the opportunity to honor the 2020 National Service Award recipients at the 2021 Virginia Volunteerism Awards this year. This was done because we were unable to honor them at the Conference last year due to it being cancelled due to COVID. Winners of the 2020 awards were: AmeriCorps VISTA-Sophie Schectman, AmeriCorps Alum-Jordan O'Hanlon, RSVP-Sandra Baron, and Senior Companion-Patricia Hazel.
  - 2021 – Leanne and Gail thanked the committee for scoring the Nomination Forms in five categories this year. Winners were: AmeriCorps Vista-Blake Mogel, AmeriCorps State-Erica Wood, RSVP-Ann Garner, Senior Companion-Bobby Flournoy, and Foster Grandparent-Catherine Moore. AmeriCorps State was extremely close which underscores the importance of having as many Committee Members scoring as possible.
  - Both the 2021 and the 2020 award recipients were honored at the Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference during the plenary on the last day. There was a live presentation with Commissioner Duke Storen, Julie Strandlie, and Liz Burneson honoring and telling us about each awardee and their service. There

were photos of each award recipient with their award and additional photos of the winners performing their service activities. They were all invited to attend the conference and the fees were paid for by VSC. They received engraved awards and the VSF is providing a monetary gift to them as well.

- Awards Presentation - A link of the recording of the presentation was sent to all awardees so that they would have access to share it.
- 2021 Virginia Volunteerism Conference (May 11-13)
  - Attendee Geographic Data: 90% VA, 21 out of state (goal was 20). Other 10% were DC and CT, ID, KY, MD, MI, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OR, PA, TN, and WI.
  - Registrant Total – 382
    - 29% Early Bird, 42% Regular
    - 32 CVS Staff
    - 107 AmeriCorps Members, Alums and Program Staff
  - 26 Sessions
    - 7 Capacity Building
    - 7 Volunteer
    - 7 Personal & Professional Dev
    - 3 Plenary Sessions, 1 Networking Event, and 1 Yoga Session
  - VSF awarded 14 Scholarships
  - OVCS hosted 10 National Service Award Recipients from 2020 & 2021
  - Highlights
    - Featured speakers - Dr. Janice Underwood, Cabinet Secretary of Diversity Equity and Inclusion spoke about the ONE program, features of the tool kit, and applying the resources to fit government, nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Dr. Allison Sampson Jackson spoke on resilience and leadership.
    - Yoga on the second day led by Project Yoga.
    - Networking event hosted by Greater Richmond Area for Volunteer Administration (GRAVA). There were also given Exhibitor benefits.
      - 53 People registered
      - Topic areas: Professional Development, Databases and Metrics, Virtual Volunteer Opportunities, Self-Care and Mindfulness, and a Catch All/Open breakout.
    - Door Prizes - Prizes ranged from \$50-\$200 with five choices or a Visa gift card in each price range.
    - Platform - Aventri's support during the conference was top notch. They assisted by providing a representative in all sessions instead of one person moving between all. They also provided trainings leading up to the event, 24/7 live support, and a project coordinator assisting OVCS staff.
    - Recordings - Registrants have access to all of the sessions for an entire year, not just the ones they attended.
    - Exhibitors – We had 6 paying exhibitors.
  - Testimonials
    - From Attendees:
      - I so enjoyed the conference and came away with so many life-altering take-aways.

- I thought it was very well run. Clear instructions for how to log on. Easy to navigate the technology/platform. Great to have access to handouts. Excited to have access to all classes.
- This was an incredible conference, and I so enjoyed participating. For a virtual conference, you did a great job of making it interactive. I have a couple virtual meetings with attendees that I met during the conference lined up, which is impressive considering the virtual format. Thank you for making it accessible!
- The information presented was so very relevant and in many instances, could be put to immediate use in my professional and personal life.
- This was one of the better virtual events that I have attended in the past year. Things really ran smoothly.
- Wow!!! I so enjoyed everything about it. All the advance emails that set us up for logging in successfully each day, selecting our presenters of choice in advance, the helpful technical assistant that applied a fix so that my profile picture would show on the first day. The caliber of the presenters, the hosts, the variety of topics to choose from. The ease of utilizing the attendee engagement panel i.e. inbox, handouts, ratings and reviews etc. The privilege of allowing me to put my hair down for three days, to exhale and just be myself while absorbing so much knowledge. Thank you for such a wonderful conference and door prize.
- The conference was interactive, engaging and very informative. I already started using some of the points shared.
- From Presenters
  - The conference committee did an excellent job and was very supportive.
  - My host was top notch and an incredible success. I was very grateful for her support!! It helped having someone manage the chat, tracking questions, and keeping the session interactive.

#### Committee Discussions

- 2022 Conference Discussion -
  - The Committee recommends a hybrid model if possible. This was described as a spoke and wheel model capitalizing on the public and nonprofit sectors to help make it happen. This model would require:
    - location to hold regional events donated
    - support from regional volunteer centers
    - staff would have to disperse to regions for event
  - Goal Considerations
    - accessibility for all (lower cost), Covid-19 safety and ease of access (no overnight necessary) to event
    - ability to engage and network with peers by having small groups breaking out
    - virtual presentations streamed to allow for nationwide speakers

- 2021 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards Ceremony Discussion
  - The preference of OVCS is to have the ceremony at the Governor's Mansion outside as the first choice and move to inside if weather/COVID protocols allow. The last resort is to have a video or virtual ceremony again. Considerations are to make it more special for the recipients and enable everyone to feel safe and comfortable. The committee agreed with the plan.
  - Leanne has already been in touch with Governor's Mansion staff to find out if it is possible to plan a reception this fall. She will reach back out to their representative once we have a date solidified.

Cliff Yee designated to report out to the Governor's Advisory Board due to Chair Mark Fero's absence